

REMARKS

Introductory Comments:

Claims 1-20 were examined in the Final Office Action dated September 1, 2006.

Claims 4-8, 11, 12, and 17-20 were allowed.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,365,362 to Terstappen et al. further in view of U.S. Patent No 6,815,212 to Ness et al.

Claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,365,362 to Terstappen et al. further in view of U.S. Patent No 6,815,212 to Ness et al, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,571,894 to Wels et al.

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-3, 9, 10, and 13-16 have been canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added by way of this amendment and the entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Addressing the Examiner's Rejections

Rejections of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

(a) The Examiner rejected claims 1, 9, 10, 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,365,362 to Terstappen et al. further in view of U.S. Patent No 6,815,212 to Ness et al.. The rejection is made moot by the cancellation of the claims. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

(b) Claims 2 and 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,365,362 to Terstappen et al. further in view of U.S. Patent No 6,815,212 to Ness et al, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,571,894 to Wels et al. The rejection is made moot by the cancellation of the claims. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims define an invention that is patentable over the art, and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' representative at (650) 335-7818.

Respectfully submitted,
Kirakossian et al.

Dated: August 17, 2007

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